CLAIMS

1. – 49. (Cancelled)

50.   (Amended) A method for <u>image based transactions</u> ~~handling cash using an electronic validation of the cash~~, comprising, the steps of:

receiving at a first location ~~the~~ cash having a front face and a back face;

scanning the front face and the back face of the cash to create an electronic validation of deposited cash;

transmitting the electronic validation of deposited cash from the first location to a second location; and

processing a transaction at the second location with the electronic validation of deposited cash.

51.   (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of displaying an image of the scanned cash on a terminal display at the first location to provide confirmation to a customer that the deposit has been accepted.

52.   (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising separately entering the amount of the cash which has been scanned, comparing the amount entered with the amount scanned, and if the scanned amount matches the entered amount, conducting the processing of the transaction.

53.   (Amended) A system for <u>conducting image based transactions</u> ~~handling cash using an electronic validation of the cash~~, comprising:

means for accepting as a deposited item at a first location cash having a front face and a back face;

a scanner located at a first location and configured for scanning the front face and the back face of the cash, for creating an image of the deposited cash;

means for transmitting an electronic validation of deposited cash from the first location to a second location;

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means for receiving the transmitted electronic validation of deposited cash, said means for receiving being located at the second location; and

means for processing a transaction with the electronic validation of deposited cash at the second location.

54.　(New)　The system of claim 53, further comprising a display means located at the first location for displaying an image of the scanned cash, for providing visual confirmation to a customer that the deposit has been accepted.

55.　(Amended)　A method for image based transactions ~~handling a check using an electronic representation of the check~~, comprising the steps of:

receiving at a first location ~~the~~ a check having a front face and a back face, wherein the check is an original paper check;

scanning the front face and the back face of the check to create a deposited check;

transmitting an image of the scanned deposited check from the first location to a second location; and

processing a transaction at the second location with the scanned image of the deposited check, whereby pickup of the check received at the first location can be delayed or eliminated, resulting at least in cost savings or improvements in payment settlement times by processing the transaction with the scanned image at the second location.

56.　(New)　The method of claim 55, wherein said processing comprises crediting a deposit in the amount of the check to a customer's account.

57.　(New)　The method of claim 56, further comprising displaying an image of the scanned check on a terminal display at the first location to provide confirmation to a customer that the deposit has been accepted.

58.　(New)　The method of claim 55, wherein the scanning is conducted on the check and further comprising recreating the image of the scanned deposited check onto paper.

59.   (New) The method of claim 58, wherein said recreating of the check onto paper further comprises cutting the paper to the size of a check.

60.   (New) The method of claim 59, wherein said recreating of the check onto paper is done at the second location.

61.   (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said first location is an automatic teller machine, owned and operated by a bank for its customers, having a scanner and display, and the method further comprising storing the scanned check in the automatic teller machine.

62.   (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising recreating the scanned deposited check into a paper image which is Magnetic Image Character Recognition (MICR) encoded.

63.   (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising separately entering the amount on the check which has been scanned, comparing the amount entered with the amount scanned, and if the scanned amount matches the entered amount, conducting the processing of the transaction.

64.   (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising composing, encrypting and digitally signing the check before the transmission to the second location for processing.

65.   (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said first location is an automatic teller machine, owned and/or operated by someone other than the owner of the second location.

66.   (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said first location is a branch of a bank.

67.   (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said first location is a retail business location.

68.   (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said first location is a business.

69.   (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said first location is outside the United States.

70.   (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising voiding said check at the first location by printing on the check or destroying the check.

71.   (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising endorsing the check.

72.   (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising transmitting the image to another location to display to an operator for resolution if the amounts entered and scanned differ.

73.   (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising comparing the information on the check to information contained in a file of indicators of potential loss.

74.   (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising maintaining a file of payor bank preferences for how the payor bank will receive presentment, and processing the transaction in accordance with the preferences.

75.   (New) The method of claim 74, further comprising using the information in the payor bank preference file to determine whether presentment will be by paper, Extended Capabilities Port (ECP), image, or Automatic Clearing House (ACH).

76.   (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising maintaining a file of routing preferences, and processing the transaction in accordance with the preferences.

77.   (Amended) A system for <u>conducting image based transactions</u> ~~handling a check using an electronic representation of the check~~, comprising:

    means for accepting as a deposited item at a first location a check having a front face and a back face, wherein the check is an original paper check;

    a scanner located at a first location and configured for scanning the front face and the back face of the check, for creating an image of a deposited check;

    means for transmitting an image of the scanned deposited check from the first location to a second location;

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means for receiving the transmitted image of the scanned deposited check, said means for receiving being located at the second location; and

means for processing a transaction with the image of the scanned deposited check at the second location, whereby pickup of the check received at the first location can be delayed or eliminated, resulting at least in cost savings or improvements in payment settlement times by processing the transaction with the scanned image at the second location.

78.   (New) The system of claim 77, further comprising means for processing a transaction with the same information as if the original was available.

79.   (New) The system of claim 78, wherein said means for processing is for crediting a deposit in the amount of the scanned check to a customer's account.

80.   (New) The system of claim 79, further comprising a display located at the first location for displaying an image of the scanned check, for providing visual confirmation to a customer that the deposit has been accepted.

81.   (New) The system of claim 77, further comprising a printer adapted for recreating the check as an image on paper, and composited with machine readable regenerated Magnetic Image Character Recognition (MICR) encoding of the original check's Magnetic Image Character Recognition (MICR) code line data.

82.   (New) The system of claim 81, wherein said printer is located at the second location.

83.   (New) The system of claim 77, further comprising an automatic teller machine having said scanner thereon at the first location, and having a secured container region therein for storing scanned checks in the automatic teller machine.

84.   (New) The system of claim 81, wherein said printer is capable of recreating the scanned image into a paper image which is Magnetic Image Character Recognition (MICR) encoded, and

composited with machine-readable regenerated Magnetic Image Character Recognition (MICR) encoding of the original check's Magnetic Image Character Recognition (MICR) code line data

85. (New) The system of claim 77, further comprising means for separately entering the amount on the check which has been scanned; and means for comparing the amount entered with the amount scanned for allowing transmission to conduct processing of the transaction.

86. (New) The system of claim 77, further comprising means for compressing, encrypting and digitally signing the scanned check before transmission to the second location for processing.

87. (New) The system of claim 77, wherein said second location has means for sending the information it receives to a third location for processing within or for another bank.

88. (New) The system of claim 77, wherein the second location has means for sending the information it receives to the Federal Reserve Bank or one of its offices or a clearinghouse as a third location, and the third location has means for creating the images on paper and Magnetic Image Character Recognition MICR encodes them for entry into the check processing system or sending the information to a bank for payment.

89. (New) The system of claim 77, further comprising means at the second for sending the information it receives directly to the payor bank or its processing agent or correspondent for payment.

90. (New) The system of claim 77, further comprising a device having said scanner thereon at the first location, and having a secured container region therein for storing scanned checks at a branch of a bank.

91. (New) The system of claim 77, further comprising a device having said scanner thereon at the first location, and having a secured container region therein for storing scanned checks at a business.

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92.   (Amended) A method for <u>image based transactions</u> ~~handling a check using an electronic representation of the check~~, comprising:

receiving at a first location a check having a front face and a back face, wherein the check is an original paper check;

scanning the front face and the back face of the check to create a deposited check;

transmitting an image of the scanned deposited check from the first location to a second location; and

processing a transaction at the second location with the scanned image of the deposited check without verification of the signature of the user initiating the transaction, which signature is used to verify that the user is a profiled user with a specified system, whereby pickup of the check received at the first location can be delayed or eliminated, resulting at least in cost savings or improvements in payment settlement times by processing the transaction with the scanned image at the second location.

93.   (New) The method of claim 92, wherein said transaction is cashing the check.

94.   (New) The method of claim 92, wherein said transaction is depositing the check amount in a user's account.

95.   (New) The method of claim 92, wherein said transaction is making a purchase at a vendor, with the vendor location being said first location.

96.   (New) The method of claim 92, wherein said transaction is conducted between unrelated systems, wherein said first location is part of one network and said second location is part of a second network.

97.   (Amended) A system for <u>conducting image based transactions</u> ~~handling a check using an electronic representation of the check~~, comprising:

means for accepting as a deposited item at a first location a check having a front face and a back face, wherein the check is an original paper check;

a scanner located at a first location and configured for scanning the front face and the back face of the check, for creating an image of a deposited instrument;

means for transmitting an image of the scanned deposited check from the first location to a second location;

means for receiving the transmitted image of the scanned deposited check, said means for receiving being located at the second location; and

means for processing a transaction with the image of the scanned deposited check at the second location without verification of the signature of a user initiating the transaction, which signature is used to verify that the user is a profiled user within a specified system, whereby pickup of the check received at the first location can be delayed or eliminated, resulting at least in cost savings or improvements in payment settlement times by processing the transaction with the scanned image at the second location.

98. (New) The system of claim 97, wherein said system is configured for conducting cashing of the check.

99. (New) The system of claim 97, wherein said system is configured for conducting a deposit of the check amount in a user's account.

100. (New) The system of claim 97, wherein said first location is a vendor location, said second location is a bank location, and said system is configured to allow making a purchase at the vendor location.

101. (New) The system of claim 97, wherein said first location is part of one network and said second location is part of a second network.